

BERSERKER 26

JAN. 7, 1975

As Charlie Farquharson would say: "This id be yer Berserker XXVI* pubrecated by Doug Ronson yer Gamesm masturbator and pubrecator who'd live at 864 Ingysol Ct. in yer cittee of Misty-Sogy, Ontario, L5J 2S1 (them's last numbers would be yer Postal Crude, which is what them fellas in the Postal Orifice went on strike over, that an yer Ottomayshun.) Yer subcription would be 7 fer a dollar, thanks to yer inflammation. No Diplamacy games are openin' write now."

Speaking of which, Charlie Farquharson has a new book out (how'd you guess?) titled "Charlie Farquharson's Jogfree of Canda, the Whirld and other places." The subject is of course Geography but he rambles on about anything and everything. Here's an excerpt from the last page of the book:

"Ther's just wan oinkmint on yer fly I shud menshun. And that's the possibility of yer nookieleer holycost.

Up 'til reecent, mosta us thot the danger of fall-off had fahn off. But the whirld is so neuralgic fer th'old days of the Fiftys that all the golden oldys are bein' brot back. Fer eggsample, twenny year ago yer Tronto Transports went outa Clission, and yer teeny-age Exhibitionist wuz swimmin' the Lake. We bin so brane-washed by them good old daze, I wooden be s'prised if they brung back yer Kareen war.

And now, mebby, it's Hero-shimmy time agen. That's why every-buddy wants to git into yer tomic reeacter bizness. And Canda seams to be yer mane supplier... we bin doon deels with Injure, Archintinny, Soused Kaireer, and Lord nose hoo-all sub yer rosy.

If the only way we got to beet yer inflayshun and yer over-popillation is by turnin' the hole wirld into a pile a atomical bums, then this is in deed....

...YER END.

Strange how something can be humourous and serious at the same time. To use the classic comparison, like how Chinese sweet and sour sauce can be both at the same time. You'll find a lot more meaning in this book than his History book and if you liked it you'll love this one.

*Boot Footnote: I know that shud be Berserker 26, but them's Roamin Numerals. And there's so many Eytalians cum over lately that yer pollytishuns is afraid to loose ther vote. How do you think Daisy Lewis got plucked?

Throughout history Vikings have been known as great warriors. "The ferocity of the Viking raiders terrified the people of Europe. Not only were they cruel, but, they also carried out their raids with zest and efficiency" said one history source. Yet there is at least one instance in history where the Vikings did not live up to their reputation as great warriors.

The time is 1006 and the place is a Viking camp somewhere on the eastern coast of Canada. They have just wiped out a group of Skraelings (natives of North America, now extinct) who's peaceful intentions were confused to be warlike and the Norse expect a counterattack by the Skraelings.

According to the Sagas nothing happened for three weeks, at the end of which time the guard came running into camp to report that a group of Skraeling boats were approaching. The Norse assumed that the natives had warlike intentions and prepared for battle. The Viking plan was to post ten men to act as bait for the approaching Skraelings while the remainder of the warriors would hide in the woods to surprise the natives.

The Skraelings beached their boats and the Norse attacked according to plan. The natives were probably paralyzed by surprise, since they did not know about the massacre of the other group of Skraelings and had come in peace. Recognizing their danger and since there probably was no time to escape, they reached for their sealing weapons. These weapons consisted of three types: spear throwers which enabled a man to throw a spear three times as far as with hand and arm only; slings similar to the one David supposedly slew Goliath with; and bows and arrows.

The Norse of this time disapproved of such weapons, considering them unmanly. Most of their weapons were intended for close combat. Against a people who kept their distance and hurled projectiles at the enemy the Norse armaments were almost useless. The Norse were running for their lives before they had cut down more than three or fours of the Skraelings.

The Norse Sagas attempt to justify this retreat by making a great deal of some strange bladderlike objects which came flying overhead. These are said to be supernatural weapons which even a Norseman couldn't be expected to stand up against. There seems to be a simpler explanation, however. These bladderlike objects were merely a part of the Skraeling harpooning gear used as a surface marker much as a modern fisherman would use a float. When they picked up their weapons there would have been no time to remove the bladders.

The rout of the Norse was so complete that they did not even stop to try to defend their homes and families and fled until their backs were against a cliff. Had the Skraelings had the intention of gaining vengeance they could easily have chased the Norse, pinned them against this cliff, and picked them off with their spears from a safe distance. However, they seemed to be contented to escape with their lives, and did not even bother to loot or burn the abandoned settlement.

Despite the fact that North America seemed to be an attractive country to settle the impression of the terrible capabilities of the Skraelings as fighting men probably convinced the Vikings to leave America rather than be in constant fear of revenge by these natives. This fear probably pre-

vented further Viking settlement in North America and this fear arose only because of the stupidity of the Norse in misinterpreting the intentions of the Skraelings.

The above story is based on Chapter 22 of Farley Mowat's book Westviking. While the best available information was used parts of it is educated guesswork by Mowat and it may not agree with other versions of this episode.

HEY! HEY! HEY! - Do you realize that nobody, absolutely nobody has commented on the articles in Berserker since way back at issue 22? Since publishers don't make any money on their zines we need an egoboost from time to time in order to keep us working. I am not saying that you should always make nice comments as critical ones at least indicate that you are reading the stuff. Nor am I saying that you have to send in 15 pages on 'why I hated Berserker 25' - a simple sentence before your orders will be fine.

I would also like to know if you have any ideas for improving Berserker and would appreciate your reasons if your comments are critical in the negative sense of the word.

Thank You.

* * *

1973GP - I have received only one set of orders so far for this game. I guess the rest of you guys were waiting to find out what Italy removed? Well, if you really want to know I'll tell you: Italy removed his army in Rome and his army in Tuscany and now has a fleet in the Adriatic Sea remaining.

You'll be happy to know that I have made an New Year's Resolution not to botch up the games anymore. Aren't you thrilled?

* * *

Press for 1974HF - Berlin - The last battered zeppelin blocking the Aerial autobahn was removed today, thus reopening normal communication links with the outside world and Berlin. Meanwhile, as normal traffic in the air resumes, a federal inquest is being held into the cause of the accident. The Bavarian Liberation Army Headquarters (B*L*A*H*) claims responsibility for the action and police are holding one "Harold S." who claims to be head of the organization, it's sole member, and incidentally, the person who may well have rammed the imperial Zeppelin with his own last spring, thus precipitating the entire accident involving nearly 300 Zeppelins. The Berlin Intelligence Agents Service (B*I*A*S*) has uncovered definite proof that this Harry S. was in the pay of King James the First of France and may indeed be the missing British presidential candidate who disappeared last year. The Kaiser has announced he will be sealing the border with France and England in retaliation for this incident.

Zaabbar: I finally figured out what all the Zeppelin business is about. Laurence started a zine called Zeppelin!. In the first issue was a good article on the game Afrika Korps and a zine review which is detailed and opinionated. Ditto form and about 6 pages long. He has game openings at \$5.00 but why believe me? Write for a sample copy at 23 Robert Allen Dr. Halifax, N.S. B3M 3G9.

This is the last issue for a couple of people. They are Rudy Wiens and Ron Ford; Rudy I hope you will resub and Ron you'd better resub unless you want to get kicked out of 74HF!

1974HF Fall 1901 WHAT IS GOING ON WAY DOWN SOUTH?
England (David Truman, COA to 50 Stephanie St., Apt 1510, Toronto, Ont.)

a yor-nwy, f nth s yor-nwy, f lon-wal

France (Jim Lawson) NMR! Anonymous neutral standby (according to the houserules) ordered a spa-mar, a gas-par, f bre-eng

Germany (Laurence Gillespie) a bur-bel, f hol s bur-bel, a kie-den

Italy (Sharon Currie) a pie-mar, a tus-pie, f ion-tun

Austria (Ron Ford) f alb-gre, a ser s alb-gre, a vie-gal

Russia (Jelle Terpstra) a ukr s f rum, a war-nos, f bot-swe, f rum s
Austrian a ser-bul (nso)

Turkey (Larry Doble) a bul-rum, f bla s bul-rum, a con-bul

I will not call for a standby for this game as I am sure Jim will continue as he wrote me a letter concerning another game and included a note concerning this one - but no orders!

Well. Thank you.

Supply Centres

England: home, nwy - total 4, build 1

Comments on 74HF - small

France: home, spa - total 4, build 1

Germany: home, den, hol, bel, - total 6, build 3

Italy: home, tun - total 4, build 1

Austria: home, ser, gre - total 5, build 2

Russia: home, swe, rum - total 6, build 2

Turkey: home, bul - total 4, build 1

NA game but the marks were so bad

Press - London: The Royal Navy cancelled it's summer cruise in the channel after a large oil slick was discovered polluting the waters.

Apparently the oil is from an overflow of excess unsold Alberta crude.

Players in 1972BE will please note that this game has been transferred to the new zine - Paroxysm. The first issue will appear Jan. 13 but prophetics will not be used - full details in Paroxysm. This is the last issue of Berserker for JH, and Ron unless you sub, Terry has a sub in abeyance.

DEADLINE for Spring in 73GP, and Winter/Spring in 74HF is January 28, 75.

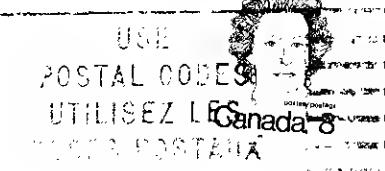
Until then...take care.

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Walt Dickinson

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